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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,931	09/16/2003	Michael Curtiss	0026-0038	2735
44989	7590	09/11/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRITY SNYDER, LLP 11350 Random Hills Road SUITE 600 FAIRFAX, VA 22030			PARDO, THUY N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2165	

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/662,931	CURTISS ET AL.	
	Examiner Thuy N. Pardo	Art Unit 2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 11-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4, 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                     | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                                  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on June 30, 2006 in response to Examiner's Office Action has been reviewed. Claims 1, 8, 11 and 29 have been amended.
2. Claims 1-31 are presented for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ford et al. (Hereinafter "Ford") US Patent application No. 2005/0289140.

As to claim 1, Ford teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:  
receiving a list of links [a list of URLs results, 167 of fig. 1, 4; 0053];

identifying, for each of the links, a source with which the link is associated [“abc.com”, “def.com”, etc., 167 of fig. 1; 0062]; and

ranking the list of links based at least in part on a quality of the identified sources [score, 170 of fig. 1; 0034].

As to claim 8, all limitations of this claim has been addressed in that analysis of claim 1 above. Ford further teaches means for providing the ranked list of objects to a client [fig. 1; 0109].

As to claim 9, Ford teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Ford further teaches a memory and a processor [0026-0028; 140-147 of fig. 1].

As to claim 10, all limitations of this claim have been addressed in the analysis above, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As to claim 29, all limitations of this claim have been addressed in the analysis above, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As to claim 2, Ford teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Ford further teaches identifying the source based at least in part on a uniform resource locator (URL) associated with the link [167 of fig. 1; 0062].

As to claim 3, Ford teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Ford further teaches that at least some of the identified sources are news sources [410-430 of fig. 4].

As to claim 6, Ford teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Ford further teaches that the links include links to on-line news articles [380 of fig. 3; 0056].

As to claim 7, Ford teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Ford further teaches determining the list of links based at least in part on one or more of a search query, a topic, a list of one or more keywords, a geographical area, and a set of documents [0042].

As to claims 4, 5, 31, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 11-28 are allowed.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination determining one or more metric values for the news source based at least in part on at least one of a number of articles produced by the news source during a first time period, an average length of an article produced by the news source, an amount of important coverage that the news source produces in a second time period, a breaking news score, an amount of network traffic to the news source, a human opinion of the news source, circulation statistics of the news source, a size

of a staff associated with the news source, a number of bureaus associated with the news source, a number of original named entities in a group of articles associated with the news source, a breadth of coverage by the news source, a number of different countries from which network traffic to the news source originates, and a writing style used by the news source and generating a quality value for the news source based at least in part on the determined one or more metric values as set forth in independent claims 11, 27 and 28.

Dependent claims 12-26 being further limiting to the independent claim 11 are also allowed.

5. Claims 4 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claim 4, the feature that the ranking includes retrieving a source rank value for each identified source, the source rank value being based at least in part on one or more of a number of articles produced by the identified source during a first time period, an average length of an article produced by the identified source, an amount of important coverage that the identified source produces in a second time period, a breaking news score, network traffic to the identified source, a human opinion of the identified source, circulation statistics of the identified source, a size of a staff associated with the identified source, a number of bureaus associated with the identified source, a number of original named entities in a group of articles associated with the identified source, a breadth of coverage by the identified source, a number of different countries

from which traffic to the identified source originates, and a writing style used by the identified source, taken together with other limitations of claim 1 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claim 30, the feature that the determining a quality of each of the identified sources includes: determining, for each of the identified sources, one or more metric values based at least in part on at least one of a number of articles produced by the source during a first time period, an average length of an article produced by the source, an amount of important coverage that the source produces in a second time period, a breaking news score, an amount of network traffic to the source, a human opinion of the source, circulation statistics of the source, a size of a staff associated with the source, a number of bureaus associated with the source, a number of original named entities in a group of articles associated with the source, a breadth of coverage by the source, a number of different countries from which network traffic to the source originates, and a writing style used by the source, and generating a quality for each of the identified sources based at least in part on the determined one or more metric values for the source, taken together with other limitations of claim 29 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant argues that Ford does not teach ranking a list of links based at least in part on a quality of identified sources.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that Ford teaches the same feature as claimed invention such as ranking the list of sources (URLs) based on the quality of identified URLs (sources). Ford teaches producing a set of items (or URLs) that satisfy the query based on a score (or quality of the web sites) that indicates a level popularity and relevance of the category to the search [0008-0011]. The search results are presented to the user in the rank from the highest to lowest category relevance [see the abstract; 0165].

Applicant argues that Ford does not teach that the identified sources are new sources.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Ford teaches that the defined sources are from different categories such as books, music, video, home improvement, etc. And those are also news sources of products or items that the clients search for.

7. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

### ***Conclusion***

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

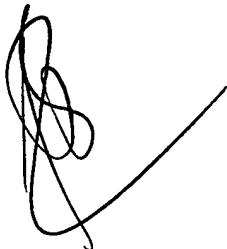
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo whose telephone number is 571-272-4082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 05, 2006



THUY N. PARDO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER